

The Examiner has taken the position that the present application contains the above-named inventions, or groups of inventions, which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1, and has required a restriction to one of the identified groups for examination.

DISCUSSION

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement in the above-identified Office Action, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal thereof. Applicant respectfully suggests that the claims are all drawn to related aspects of a single general inventive concept within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.1, and should not be subject to restriction.

Even if the Examiner remains convinced that the claims are not all drawn to a single inventive concept, applicant respectfully suggests that all of the pending claims are drawn to related aspects of closely associated inventions.

Applicant respectfully points out that MPEP section 803 states that

"if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions."

Applicant respectfully suggests that the examination of the entire application would not place a serious burden on the Examiner. Applicant therefore respectfully respects reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

Even if the Examiner decides to maintain the restriction requirement after considering the above, applicant respectfully submits that in its present form, the requirement is excessively restrictive, and should be modified.

For example, applicant suggests that the claims of Groups II and III could easily be combined to form a single group, since many of the particle claims of group III include some of the same limitations as the method claims of group II. Alternatively, Groups I and III could be

combined into a single group, because the particles of group III are closely related to the composite structures of group I.

However, notwithstanding the above, and in order to comply with Patent Office requirements, applicant elects, with traverse, the group identified by the Examiner as Group I, of claims 1-10 and 57-71, drawn to a composite structure.

If the Examiner has any further questions or comments with regard to Applicant's response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant encourages her to call William Blackman at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile transmission to the US Patent & Trademark Office, Art Unit ~~3618~~ 1775, on August 26, 2004.

Dated: August 26, 2004

